

Children's Cabinet Meeting

JUNE 27, 2018

Agenda

- ▶ **Welcome**
- ▶ **Adoption of minutes**
- ▶ **Focus: How can we best support transgender, gender nonconforming, and gender expansive youth in Rhode Island?**
 - ▶ Data on Youth Experiences based on Gender Expression - *RI Department of Health*
 - ▶ Guidance and Regulations to Support Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students - *RI Department of Education*
 - ▶ Focus on Youth Homelessness - *RI Continuum of Care*
 - ▶ Facilitated Discussion: Policy and programmatic opportunities and community supports for transgender, gender nonconforming, and gender expansive youth





Preliminary Analysis of Gender Expression Data: 2017 RI High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

OVERARCHING GOAL

**Positively Demonstrate for Rhode Islanders
the Purpose and Importance of Public Health**

LEADING PRIORITIES

**Address the Social
and Environmental
Determinants
of Health in
Rhode Island**

**Eliminate the
Disparities of Health
in Rhode Island
and Promote Health
Equity**

**Ensure Access to
Quality Health
Services for
Rhode Islanders,
Including Our
Vulnerable
Populations**

CROSS-CUTTING STRATEGIES

RIDOH Academic Center: Strengthen the integration of scholarly activities with public health

RIDOH Health Equity Institute: Promote collective action to achieve the full potential of all Rhode Islanders

Background



- In 2017, RI added a gender expression question to the high school Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).
- The question looks at socially assigned gender expression (how others perceive a person's gender), not respondents' self-perceptions.
- This presentation is intended to:
 - Present preliminary findings related to gender expression and health risk behaviors.
 - Spark discussion of ways to strengthen supports for gender-expansive youth.

Gender expression question



A person's appearance, style, dress, or the way they walk or talk may affect how people describe them. How do you think other people at school would describe you?

1. Very feminine
2. Mostly feminine
3. Somewhat feminine
4. Equally feminine and masculine
5. Somewhat masculine
6. Mostly masculine
7. Very masculine

Gender expression definitions used in analysis



Label	Gender expression response options selected
Feminine	Students selecting responses: (“very feminine”, “mostly feminine” or “somewhat feminine”)
Masculine	Students selecting responses: (“very masculine”, “mostly masculine” or “somewhat masculine”)
Androgynous	Students selecting (“equally feminine and masculine”)
Gender non-conforming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male students selecting: (“very feminine”, “mostly feminine” or “somewhat feminine”) • Female students selecting: (“very masculine”, “mostly masculine” or “somewhat masculine”)
Gender expansive	Students who were categorized as androgynous or gender non-conforming.
Cisgender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male students selecting : (“very masculine”, “mostly masculine” or “somewhat masculine”) • Female students selecting (“very feminine”, “mostly feminine” or “somewhat feminine”)

Health outcome definitions used in analysis



Label	YRBS Question/Response
Sad/hopeless	"During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?" (% answering "Yes")
Miss school/felt unsafe	"During the past 30 days, on how many days did you not go to school because you felt you would be unsafe at school or on your way to or from school?" (% answering 1 or more days)
Attempted suicide	"During the past 12 months, how many times did you actually attempt suicide?" (% reporting 1 or more times)
Bullied	"During the past 12 months, have you ever been electronically bullied?"; "During the past 12 months, have you ever been bullied on school property?" (% answering "Yes" to either or both items)
Poor grades	"During the past 12 months, how would you describe your grades in school?" (% reporting: Mostly Cs, Mostly Ds, or Mostly Fs)
Ever smoke cigarettes	"Have you ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs?" (% answering "Yes")
Ever smoke marijuana	"During your life, how many times have you used marijuana?" (% reporting 1 or more times)
Take prescription pain meds	"During your life, how many times have you taken prescription pain medicine without a doctor's prescription or differently than how a doctor told you to use it?" (% reporting 1 or more times)

Key findings



- 19% of RI high school students are gender expansive (androgynous and/or gender non-conforming).
- **Gender expansive students have a significantly higher prevalence of several health risks.**
- Note: because only one year of data was available, the sample size for this analysis was small. This could impact precision of some estimates.

Key findings



- **44%** of RI gender expansive high school students felt **sad or hopeless almost every day** for at least two weeks in the past year.
- Compared to cisgender youth, gender expansive youth are:
 - **3 times** more likely to **miss school because they felt unsafe**.
 - **2.5 times** more likely to **attempt suicide**.
 - **2 times** more likely to be **bullied**.
 - More likely to **get poor grades**, ever use a **cigarette or marijuana**, or to have **taken prescription pain medication** without a doctor's permission.

Where we are now



- RIDOH is **conducting additional analyses of 2017 YRBS data** related to gender expression, and aims to release more data later this year.
- RIDOH is also **working to standardize the collection of data on gender identity and sexual orientation** across its health surveillance systems.

Where we are now



- The RIDOH **SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) Equity Workgroup**, supported by the Health Equity Institute at RIDOH, is working to:
 - Create a more welcoming and inclusive environment at RIDOH for sexual and gender minority people.
 - Offer training to RIDOH staff and develop organizational capacity to improve our ability to identify and respond to sexual and gender minority health disparities.
 - Build relationships with other organizations to improve sexual and gender minority health equity statewide.



www.health.ri.gov

Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH

Director of Health

Rhode Island Department of Health

Nicole.AlexanderScott@health.ri.gov

Rhode Island Department of Education

Guidance and Regulations to Support Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students

Presentation by Rosemary Reilly Chammat,
Ed.D., RI Department of Education

Background

- RIDE has a strong history of statutes, regulations and programmatic supports related to the development of safe and supportive environment.
- RIDE was one of 19 states awarded by CDC RFA PS13-1308 Promoting Adolescent Health Through School Based HIV/STD Prevention and School Based Surveillance
- Ten RI school districts participating in this effort identified that they needed guidance to support youth who identify as transgender and gender nonconforming as universal need

Defining the Need

Human Rights Campaign -- Growing Up LGBT in America

- 10,000 youth surveyed
- 42% of gender nonconforming youth report “frequently” or “often” being called names
- 40% reported being “frequently” or “often” excluded

Journal of Adolescent Health (2015) --Youth identifying as Transgender were more likely to report:

- Being diagnosed with depression (50.6% vs. 20.6%)
- Suffering from anxiety (26.7% vs. 10%)
- Attempting suicide (17.2% vs. 6.1%)
- Engaging in self harm with lethal intentions (16.7% vs. 4.4%)

Legal Framework for RIDE Guidance

Federal Law:

- Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Federal Equal Access Act

Rhode Island State Laws and Policy:

- Policy Statement on Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity/Expression
- Article I, Section 2 Rhode Island Constitution
- RIGL §11-24-2 Discriminatory practices prohibited
- Right to a Safe School
- RI Safe Schools Act
- RI Statewide Bullying Policy

Guidance Topics

- Gender Transition
- Names and Pronouns
- Privacy, Confidentiality, and Student Records
- Dress Codes
- Restrooms, Locker Rooms, and Changing Facilities
- Physical Education Classes and Intramural and Interscholastic Athletic Activities
- Other Gender-Based Activities, Rules, Policies, and Practices
- Education and Training
- Communications with School Community

Timeline

- Guidance for RI Schools on Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students released in June 2016
- 64% of districts adopted policy by June 2017
- RIDE explored need for regulation to ensure all districts developed policy in response to requests from community advocates.

Timeline cont.

- Regulations Governing Protections for Students Rights to be Free from Discrimination on the Basis of Sex, Gender, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, or Gender Expression
 - Public Comment Period: 72 provided written comments (28 in support and 44 in opposition)
 - Public Hearing in February 2018: 40 attendees, with 31 testifying (20 in support and 11 in opposition)
- Commissioner's regulations were adopted in April, 2018, and require a policy by July, 2018

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RHODE ISLAND CONTINUUM OF CARE

THE REALITY OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN OUR STATE



23 HOMELESSNESS AMONG YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS - NATIONALLY

- Unprecedented increase in collaboration at the federal level (USICH)
- Transgender youth and youth of LGBTQ+ sexual orientation are disproportionately represented
 - 7% of youth nationwide
 - 40% of homeless youth nationwide
- Effective strategies to end youth homelessness must:
 - ✓ be developmentally appropriate
 - ✓ consider youth strengths and needs
 - ✓ meaningfully incorporate youth with lived experience
 - ✓ focus on serving youth of color; transgender youth and youth of LGBTQ+ sexual orientation

24 RICOC: ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (1987); amended by the HEARTH Act (2009); HUD's Continuum of Care Interim Rule (2012)
 - Assist households experiencing (or at risk of) homelessness to rapidly end their homelessness
 - Promote community wide planning and strategic use of resources
 - Governance of State and Federal Homeless Assistance: Policy-making, Funding decisions, Program Evaluation
- What does this really mean?
 - Federal support for a localized, coordinated, community-wide, response to both the predictable and unique challenges associated with experiencing homelessness in Rhode Island
 - Decreases duplication to maximize impact with finite resources
 - Increases client choice
 - Accountable to statewide goal to end homelessness (Opening Doors Rhode Island, 2012)

25 YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN RHODE ISLAND RECENT PROGRESS

- RCoC Unaccompanied Youth Committee (2017): conduct landscape scan & create a plan
- Homeless Youth Point in Time (PIT) Count (July 2017 and May 2018)
 - Developmentally appropriate survey tool; incorporated strengths and needs assessment, meaningfully incorporated youth with lived experience in planning and implementation; particular focus on youth of color, transgender youth and youth of LGBTQ+ sexual orientation
 - 85 youth experiencing homelessness on July 26, 2017; 6% identified as transgender and 35% endorsed and LGBTQ+ sexual orientation (Pawtucket & Providence)
 - May 2018 Youth PIT (expanded to include Woonsocket, Newport, and Warwick) - data coming soon!
 - 2019 Youth PIT funding allocated
- Youth centered Street Outreach with intentional focus on LGBTQ+ youth (Home to Hope; RICH)
- 2 Youth Specific Permanent Housing Projects awarded in FY17 COC competition (Foster Forward; Community Care Alliance)
- Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)
- Family Unification Program (FUP) application (DCYF; PHA Collaborative; RCoC)
- RCoC's Statewide Coordinate Entry System began Youth specific housing prioritization using TAY-SPDAT (June 2018)
- RCoC's UYC Vision to End Youth Homelessness and Outlined Community Plan drafted

26 FOCUS ON SERVING LGBTQ+ YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

RICoC's UYC Vision:

“Our vision is that [by 2022] youth and young adult homeless is rare in Rhode Island, with disparities related to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity eliminated. Ending homelessness for youth does not mean that a youth will never experience housing instability or homelessness again. Rather, it means that our community will have a system in place to prevent homelessness for youth whenever possible and, if literal homelessness cannot be prevented, to ensure that the young person's homelessness is brief and non-recurring.”

“To fulfill our vision, we must ensure that... Interventions meet the needs of youth of color, LGBTQ+ youth and other youth and young adults disproportionately impacted.”



27 YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN RHODE ISLAND GAPS/BARRIERS/CHALLENGES

- No RICOC youth specific crisis housing
- Lack of Runaway Homeless Youth (RHY) Basic Center provider – gateway to additional youth centered grants from the Family Youth Services Bureau (FYSB)
- Cross-sector collaboration on program coordination and data sharing to support Department mandates that align with RICoC goals
- Youth specific permanent housing subsidies do not meet need
 - Housing shortage being felt cross sector – Housing is the Platform to Success
- Unit shortage (2% vacancy rate in Providence)

28 THANK YOU!

- Contact Information:

Elizabeth Bioteau

RICoC Planner

(401) 429-1478

ebioteau@rihousing.com

- Are you or someone you know experiencing housing instability?

Contact the RICoC's Coordinated Entry System (CES)

(401) 277- 4316

Discussion Questions

1. How can we highlight and build upon assets and strengths to encourage resiliency among gender-expansive, gender nonconforming, and transgender youth?
2. What opportunities for coordination and collaboration exist among partners, communities, and families?
3. What policies should we consider enacting or changing to improve the social environments of gender minority youth?
4. What are your recommendations to strengthen supports for gender-expansive, gender nonconforming, and transgender youth in their social environments (e.g., families, schools, communities, workplaces)?

Public Comment and Discussion